

Amendment No. 1 to HJR0099

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AMEND House Joint Resolution No. 99*

by deleting in its entirety the language following the caption and by substituting instead the following language:

WHEREAS, in our capitol city of Nashville alone, over 10,000 dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens were destroyed at the city shelter last year; and

WHEREAS, the high birth rate of cats and dogs in this state means there are not enough homes for all of these animals; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout Tennessee and across the nation spend millions of dollars to address the pet overpopulation problem; and

WHEREAS, irresponsible breeding contributes to the increasing problem of dog bites and attacks; and

WHEREAS, running-at-large animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs; and

WHEREAS, the animals themselves suffer privation and death, are impounded, and, sadly, most are housed and then destroyed at great expense to local governments; and

WHEREAS, this deplorable state of affairs could be significantly improved in our state if only Tennesseans spayed or neutered their pets; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering pets can help them lead longer, healthier lives by reducing the incidence of a number of difficult or expensive to treat health problems, such as cancers affecting the reproductive organs; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering have many positive benefits to the pet owner as well; spaying and neutering make pets more affectionate companions, make cats less likely to spray and mark territory, eliminate the heat cycle in dogs and cats, and make animals less likely to bite, roam, run away, or get into fights; and

WHEREAS, every cat or dog who dies as a result of pet overpopulation, whether humanely in a shelter or by injury, disease, neglect or cruelty, is an animal who, more often than not, would have made a wonderful companion if given the chance. Tremendous as the problem of pet overpopulation is, it can be addressed if each of us takes just one small step, starting with not allowing our animals to breed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that in recognizing the importance of spaying and neutering pets, we strongly encourage Tennesseans to be responsible pet owners and spay and neuter their pets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.